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Zambian Food processors and the role of standards

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The role of competitive locally owned firms

- Key to a dynamic private sector
- Add to economic growth and job creation
- Add to innovation, entrepreneurship, skills development and more

- Good reasons to support local private sector to stay competitive

- Many ways to do so – targeted support programs and schemes being one!



Zambian Food Processing Industry:

- Grain Milling, Dairy, Edible Oil, Snacks, Jams and Sauce, Juice and Beverages

- Estimated 100 firms
- About 50% local owned & mature
- About 25% young & starting
- About 25% foreign owned

Zambian owned firms lacked targeted, specific programs and schemes!



Missed opportunity!

- Survey: Growth in turnover and employment from 2007-2012
- On average: **60% growth in employment over the period!**



Survey + Interviews showed:

Standards (local and international) important
However, importance not always appreciated!

2014-2016: Challenging business environment

- **No growth in employment!**
- **Support highly needed**
- **E.g. program to encourage firms to draw on ZABS**



Recommendations:

- **Scheme to ensure implementation of local standards and/or international standards (e.g. ISO9000, HACCP)**
- Firms to engage & allocate resources (time)
- **Business Associations to lobby and pressure government**
- Government to allocate funds, to administer based on clear criteria (flexibility according to sub-sector), fixed time span, and to ensure enforcement



Thank you –

**Comments and
questions are welcome**